



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Date: April 17, 2024.

Time: 7:15 PM – 9:15 PM

Location: Conducted via Remote Participation (Zoom).

Minutes

Attendees:

- Executive committee: Christopher Tonkin (chair)., Linda Epstein., Jack Johnson., Adam MacNeill., Doug Mayo-Wells., Scott Smith (TAC liaison).
- Town of Arlington: John Alessi (Senior Transportation Planner)., Officer Brendan Flynn.
- Members of the Public: Len Greenberg., Stephan Miller., Anton Rapetov., Steve Revilak.

1. Greetings and introductions, ground rules for online meetings.

Christopher Tonkin notifies attendees that the meeting is held online pursuant to the order of Governor (as extended) and that Doug Mayo-Wells is taking minutes; the meeting is being recorded for the purposes of verifying the minutes; and the recording will be deleted after the minutes are approved. Tonkin confirms the committee members and others in attendance for the meeting.

2. Approval of Outstanding Minutes.

ABAC voted to approve the February minutes, as amended. Proposed by Scott Smith, seconded by Christopher Tonkin, carried unanimously.

3. Report from COBWEB Officer.

Officer Brendan Flynn attended, but did not have specific items to raise.

4. Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Report.

TAC voted to recommend that the Select Board start the process of rescinding the special speed regulations, starting with Broadway and Park Avenue. The

effect will be to reduce speed limits on Broadway and Park Avenue from 30 to 25 mph. The Town will analyze the impact before further action.

5. Bikeway Block Party.

The Bikeway Block Party, similar in scope to the 25th anniversary celebration, will be on Sept 15 from 11am–4pm. Venues throughout the bikeway will host a variety of events (arts, music, sport/fitness).

A planning meeting is scheduled for April 22. Scott Smith will attend, Christopher Tonkin will attend if possible. Rod Holland is likely to attend as well, and also Economic Development Coordinator Katie Luczai and representation from the Arlington Center for the Arts.

Lexington may use this event as inspiration for 250th anniversary planning.

Officer Flynn requests that APD be informed in August.

6. Bike Parking at Town Hall (reference to Town Meeting).

John Alessi provides an update: For Town Meeting, a portable rack will be installed by Flagstaff Park, and a temporary sign will indicate that bike parking is available there and by the Annex entry. More permanent signage may be installed.

The previous parking spaces could not be reinstalled due to anti-icing measures under the paving – it is not feasible to drill into the new surface. Jack Johnson credits Adam MacNeill for writing a good memo, as voted in the previous meeting, although it was overtaken by events.

John Alessi clarifies that additional ring racks will still be installed on parking meters.

7. Prepare an E-Bike Report for the Select Board?

Christopher Tonkin has not been able to review Lexington's Ebike recommendation document (which may be in draft state) to determine whether ABAC is in alignment as of yet. However Lexington will be installing amber flashing lights at pedestrian crossings.

John Alessi mentions Lexington Bicycle advisory chair indicated that some abutters have raised some concerns about the lights, but they will illuminate only on demand.

Scott Smith mentions that the Consumer Product Safety Commission has a request for comment on potential federal Ebike regulation (Federal Register ::

Electric Bicycles; Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; Request for Comments and Information)

8. MassBike Week Kick-Off Event.

ABAC is invited to share a table at an event on April 28 at Aeronaut brewery – Scott Smith and Linda Epstein will represent ABAC. Scott Smith shares a draft of a slide with a description of ABAC, and mentioning the upcoming May 19 and September 15 events. Doug Mayo-Wells suggests adding our 3rd Wednesday of the month schedule, if possible. ABAC can distribute maps and mention upcoming projects especially Broadway (connection with Somerville).

9. ABAC Budget/Spending

Not much progress to report but Christopher Tonkin will be connecting with Recreation Director Joseph Connelly.

10. Planning Department Updates.

Quick updates:

- RFP for Mystic River Path, proposals are due Friday. Expect to review and have selected vendor under contract later this summer.
- Mass Ave/Appleton- final design plans will be posted on the Town Website. Will respond to comments from survey in May, intend to gain letter of support from Select Board and submit grant application to Mass Works for construction funding. A grant award this fall could support construction starting as soon as Spring 2025.
- Locations for new bike racks in the Heights, Brattle Square, and Arlington Center are being finalized
- Bike lanes on Medford will be installed with striping on Warren Street (should be soon)
- Blue Bikes are being deployed, still working to keep stations available year-round, DPW will be installing asphalt pads where needed. Still waiting to hear on grant applications for funding additional stations.

John Alessi shares a presentation on the Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding project originally presented to the Arlington Chamber of Commerce on April 20, 2023.

- Prioritized areas are the Heights, Arlington Center, and East Arlington
- Several sign types are used, identify, kiosk, high- and low-profile directional, and pointers
- Riders are directed to and from business districts

Signs are finalized and will likely be installed this summer.

Jack Johnson mentions the poor condition of the stairway to Park Ave from the bikeway. This should be addressed if there are signs showing this as a preferred route.

John Alessi agrees this is a concern and will follow up.

Linda Epstein asks if signage was considered around the Sunrise parking lot, Ryder St/Gym, or Trader Joe's/Drake St (or signage to the Res)

John Alessi suspects these locations were too far from the identified priority areas

Scott Smith questions recommending Lake St over Varnum for East Arlington access

John Alessi suggests this for future consideration (especially for a project with less specific focus on economic development)

Christopher Tonkin reports on an assessment of conditions on the bikeway with a view to prioritizing issues and seeking funding, including pavement markings (centerline and edges where there are drop offs), stop ahead indications, reinstating the safety markings by Trader Joes. Bottlenecks at bridges were reviewed, but will be very difficult to address.

Steve Revilak mentions that the Northern Strand Trail has good treatment where bike path crosses roads (signage, stop warnings, flashing beacons).

11.2024 Tour of Arlington Planning.

Tour of Arlington is planned for Sunday May 19. An earlier 5K running event should not create conflicts. Interested ABAC members will meet at 10:00 (not 9:30) Sunday April 21 to test/finalize the route.

12. Other Business.

ABAC's June meeting conflicts with the Juneteenth federal holiday. ABAC will meet on Monday June 24.

Doug mentions the website transitmatters.org which has lots of statistics on transit use, and a comment from a colleague that residential and business parking spaces pose a different order of magnitude of threats to cyclists, because the greater turnover of commercial parking means that doors will be opened many more times in a day. Curious if this is generally taken into account when determining whether separated lines are appropriate.

Linda Hill reports from the Hill's Hill mountain bike facility meeting – still some concerns about removal of trees and disruption of wildlife, rodent populations and ebike use, but making good progress to compromise.

Jeff Roth (former ABAC member) sent correspondence re: poor cycling conditions on Pleasant St.

John Alessi clarifies that the Town does on Pleasant St, even though it is a state numbered route, however, repaving will likely wait until planned MWRA completes – don't want to repave, and dig up immediately. Egregious potholes can still be addressed, photos, specific locations would be helpful.

Steve Revilak attended a Somerville open house with designs for Broadway between Rt 16 and Teele Square, and was favorably impressed.

Adjourned.